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Demand and supply of improved water in the Ghanaian Volta Basin

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Growing efforts are undertaken at the local, national, and international level to improve water supply in developing countries and thereby help people to satisfy their basic water needs. This study aims at an evaluation of households' actual access to and use of improved water sources in rural communities in the Ghanaian Volta basin. A statistical analysis of a household survey conducted in the Volta Basin helps to demonstrate that access to improved water does not automatically translate into use of it for all households. Our analysis shows that 43 per cent of those households that had access to an improved source still use unsafe water as their main domestic water source. Relative distance to improved and unimproved sources, the pricing system established locally, and quality perceptions all are likely to influence household water source choices.